

REMARKS

In the outstanding office action, claims 1-32 were presented for examination. Claims 1-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. No prior art rejections have been made of record.

In the instant amendment applicant has amended claims 1, 27 and 32 to address the rejections outlined in the outstanding office action. More particularly, independent claims 1, 27 and 32 have been amended to include the following language “an average surface roughness defined by a plurality of peaks and a plurality of valleys, wherein the distance between the plurality of peaks and the plurality of valleys ranges from about 0.025 millimeters (0.00098 inches) to about 4.57 millimeters (0.18 inches) (peak to valley), wherein the plurality of peaks and the plurality of valleys define a plurality of openings in the exterior gripping surface”. The aforementioned amendments are supported by the specification and drawings as filed thus, no new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that the aforementioned amendments addresses the rejections outlined in the outstanding office action.

Dependent claims 6-13, 28 and 30 have been amended to conform the same to independent claims 1 and 27. More specifically, the term “average surface roughness (peak to valley)” has been replaced with --distance between the plurality of peaks and the plurality of valleys-- and claims 13 and 30 have been amended to provide antecedence for “plurality of peaks”. Dependent claims 2 and 28 have been amended to add the term “tubular member”. The aforementioned amendments are supported by the specification and drawings as filed thus, no new matter has been added.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in a condition for further examination. Such action is earnestly solicited. If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicant's attorney would be

helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, he is invited to call the telephone number below for an interview.

If there are any charges due with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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